

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools

Newsletter

"Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering healthy, green schools for all"



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You are receiving this newsletter because of your interest in education in Connecticut. Feel free to share this information with your colleagues!

What is Connecticut Green LEAF Schools?

The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program helps schools become green and healthy places to learn, work and thrive. A collaborative effort of the Connecticut Departments of Construction Services, Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Public Health, as well as many Connecticut environmental and educational organizations, the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program guides and recognizes schools for striving toward three essential goals:

Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education. The school will focus on interdisciplinary learning featuring relationships between the environment, energy and human systems, civic engagement with the local community, and connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content and practice.

Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff. A school must strive to integrate school environmental health programs, nutritional and fitness standards, and quality outdoor time to meet the second goal of the Connecticut Green LEAF School program.

Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost. A Connecticut Green LEAF School will ensure that its environmental footprint is small by ensuring that the school's buildings maximize energy and water efficiency, focus on waste reduction and recycling, and promote alternative transportation use.

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Your School Can Become a Connecticut Green LEAF School Today!

[Find out more about](#)

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Benefits of Becoming a Connecticut Green LEAF School

Why Should Your School Become a Connecticut Green LEAF School?

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools are healthy, productive learning environments for students, educators and administrators. Studies show that a green school raises student academic achievement, saves money and improves the health of students and staff. Schools with strong environmental literacy education provide a focus for learning in all content areas and builds critical thinking skills, allowing students to become more engaged and empowered to make a difference in their school and community.

How Can Our School Become a Connecticut Green LEAF School?

All K-12 schools in Connecticut are eligible to participate!

[The process is easy.](#)

Every school is unique and starts at a different level. Connecticut Green LEAF can help all schools on their journey to becoming green. There are [great resources, supports, professional development and mentors](#) to help your school achieve the following levels:

Planting Seeds (Level 1): For schools assessing their baselines and developing green plans. This level lays the foundation for a more sustainable school community in the future.

Growing Green (Level 2): For schools that have made progress in all seven steps and qualify for CT Green LEAF School status. [Exemplary schools would be eligible for federal Green Ribbon recognition.](#)

Upcoming Opportunities to Learn More About Greening Your School

Highlights of upcoming programs:

October 13, 2012 [Connecticut Science Education Conference](#)

October 20, 2012 [Energy CT Family Science Day](#)

October 24, 2012 [Food Day Free Webinar](#)

October 26, 2012 [New England Environmental Literacy Summit](#)

[the program](#) or [contact us](#) with your questions.

From there, it is easy steps, great resources, and all the help you need to make your school a greener place.

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools is an application of the Connecticut Environmental Literacy Plan



For more information visit www.coeea.org

Connecticut Green LEAF

Collaboration Partners

CT Department of Education

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CT Department of Construction Services

CT Department of Public Health

Central CT State University

CL&P

Common Ground School

Connecticut Sea Grant

October 30, 2012 [Best Practices in Sustainability Education Workshop](#).

An opportunity for K-12 educators and administrators to learn about and share classroom activities and practices.

[From the Green Strides Webinar Series](#)

Sept. 26, 2012, 2-3 p.m.: The Sun, UV and You: The SunWise Program (EPA)

Oct. 3, 2012, 2-3 p.m.: Environmental Education for Everyone: 'K through Grey' Resources (EPA)

Oct. 10, 2012, 3-4 p.m.: The School Day Just Got Healthier (USDA)

Oct. 17, 2012, 2-3 p.m.: Why Environmental Health in School Matters (EPA)
The School Flag Program (EPA)

Oct. 24, 2012, 4-5 p.m.: Investigating the Climate System (NASA)

There are other webinars that have been archived. These dates are live showings and will be archived after presentation. More events are scheduled throughout the year.

There are great resources online to help you and your school become greener. [Check out the complete list](#).

The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program will recognize schools that have attained significant progress toward greening their schools, as well as those that are just beginning. The program can help all schools on their journey to becoming green. We hope you will join us!

For more information, or questions email ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org

Sincerely,

The Connecticut Green LEAF Collaborative

CT Audubon

CT Energy Efficiency Fund

CT Outdoor and Environmental Education Association

CT Science Teachers Association

CREC

CT Forest and Park Association

CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools

EASTCONN

Eastern CT State University

EPA Region 1

Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership

Southern CT State University

United Illuminating

Yale University